

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: SECURITY CHECKS FOR U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM (USRP)

1. AMONG THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AS A RESULT OF THE INSPECTION OF THIS MISSION IN JULY 1977, WAS ONE THAT THE REQUIREMENT THAT SECURITY CHECKS BE CONDUCTED BY USRP FOR EACH REFUGEE REGISTERED WITH IT, BE ABOLISHED, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IDENTICAL CHECKS, CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY, ARE MADE BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS). THE MISSION IS ANXIOUS TO PURSUE THIS RECOMMENDATION AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY AND COSTLY DUPLICATION OF TIME AND EFFORT.

2. THE LEGISLATION IN QUESTION IS THAT KNOWN AS THE "MCCARRAN RIDER", PUBLIC LAW 778, 83RD CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION, WHICH WAS ENACTED ON AUGUST 26, 1954, AND HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE SECTION OF EACH FOREIGN APPROPRIATIONS ASSISTANCE ACT SINCE THEN, THE LATEST BEING PUBLIC LAW 95-148 OF OCTOBER 31, 1977. THIS PROVIDES THAT "NO FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THIS ACT SHALL BE UTILIZED TO ASSIST DIRECTLY THE MIGRATION TO ANY NATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE OF ANY PERSON NOT HAVING A SECURITY CLEARANCE BASED ON REASONABLE STANDARDS TO INSURE AGAINST COMMUNIST INFILTRATION IN THE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE."

3. THIS LEGISLATION WAS SUPPORTED BY SUCH DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVES AS CIRCULAR AIRGRAM 592 OF JULY 20, 1960 AND CIRCULAR AIRGRAM 708 OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1970 IN WHICH THE OFFICE OF SECURITY DIRECTED THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE IN GENEVA TO CONDUCT THE SCREENING OPERATION AS PRESENTLY

PERFORMED. IT IS THE MISSION'S VIEW THAT THE SCREENING OPERATION FOR THE USRP PROGRAM, INVOLVING THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO THE UNITED STATES IS DUPLICATIVE OF THE CONCURRENT INS CHECK. FURTHER, IN THE PAST THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS, USRP HAS NOT HAD OCCASION TO REJECT A SINGLE CASE AS A RESULT OF THESE CHECKS. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS OUR INTENTION, UNLESS OBJECTION IS PERCEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT, TO ABOLISH THE SECURITY SCREENING PERFORMED BY USRP.

4. THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT THIS ACTION CAN BE TAKEN UNDER EXISTING GUIDELINES. CA-708 READS, IN PART, AS FOLLOWS: "IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, THE RSO'S CONCERNED AND USRP WILL COORDINATE THIS PROGRAM TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH FIELD OFFICES OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND U.S. CONSULAR OFFICERS ON SCREENING OF REFUGEES BEING PROCESSED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES." IN PURSUIT OF THIS PURPOSE, THE HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE MISSION WILL COORDINATE WITH THE SECURITY, INS AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS CONCERNED, AND, UPON THEIR CONCURRENCE, WILL ELIMINATE THIS USRP PROCEDURE.

5. THE SUBJECT OF CHECKS CONDUCTED ON BEHALF OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) FOR REFUGEES MOVING TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WILL BE GIVEN FURTHER STUDY AND, IF INDICATED, BE TREATED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES, NAME CHECKS (SECURITY)
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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